

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1-4, 6-8, 10-13, and 15-21 were pending. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested in view of the amendments and the following discussion.

Rejections in view of cited art

Claims 1-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 6,498,944 to Ben-Haim et al. (herein the Ben-Haim et al. reference) in view of US Application No. 11/131,015 (US Publication No. 2005/0288571) to Perkins et al.

The Examiner alleges that the US Publication No. 2005/0288571 discloses a docking station as recited in paragraph 87. However, the cited Perkins et al. reference has a filing date of May 17, 2005, which is after the filing date of January 2, 2004 of the present application. Therefore, the cited US Publication No. 2005/0288571 is not available as prior art against the present application.

The cited Perkins et al. reference does claim priority to a series of applications, some filed after, some filed before the present application. US Publication No. 2005/0288571 claims priority to provisional application 60/404,601, filed Aug. 20, 2002. Applicant has reviewed US Publication No. 2004/0186357 to Perkins et al. which claims priority solely to provisional application 60/404,601. The US Publication No. 2004/0186357 does not disclose a docking station that to selectively couples or decouples the electrophysiology module to the patient monitoring module, as recited in claim 1. Rather, the US Publication No. 2004/0186357 discloses a docking station 224 that couples a portable "camera" 220 to a wall-mounted medical diagnostic workstation 230. See paragraphs 112 and 113 and Figs. 18 and 19 (emphasis added). For at least this reason, the US Publication No. 2004/0186357 does not cure the deficiency of the US Publication No. 2005/0288571.

Based on the above remarks, the Examiner has failed to establish a prima facie case of obviousness of claim 1. Applicant argues that US Publication No. 2005/0288571 is not available as prior art against the present application. A review of the family of priority cases having a priority date before the present application fails to disclose each

and every limitation of claim 1. For at least these reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-4 and 6-7 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1, and are believed allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 1 is believed allowable. Claims 2-4 and 6-7 may also recite patentable subject matter in addition to that recited in claim 1.

Claim 8 recites a system that comprises, inter alia, a docking station operable to selectively couple or decouple to a plurality of sensors used to measure the received patient information in communication with the console, the patient information comprising at least two of the following types of information: blood pressure, temperature, respiratory rate, pulse oximetry, and respiratory CO₂ concentration.

For reasons similar to those described above with respect to claim 1, US Publication No. 2005/0288571 has a filing date that is not available as prior art against the present application. US Publication No. 2005/0288571 claims priority to US Publication No. 2004/0186357, but the US Publication No. 2004/0186357 does not disclose the recited docking station of claim 8 for reasons similar to those described above with respect to claim 1. The docking station 224 described in the US Publication No. 2004/0186357 does not selectively couple a consoles with sensors to patient information comprising at least two of the following types of information: blood pressure, temperature, respiratory rate, pulse oximetry, and respiratory CO₂ concentration. For at least these reasons, the Examiner has not established a prima facie case of obviousness, and reconsideration and allowance of claim 8 is respectfully requested.

Claims 10-12 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 8, and are believed allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 8 is believed allowable. Claims 10-12 may also recite patentable subject matter in addition to that recited in claim 8.

Applicant argues that the Examiner has not established a prima facie case of obviousness against claims 13 and 17 for at least those reasons similar to those described

above with respect to claims 1 and 8. For reasons described above, US Publication No. 2005/0288571 has a filing date that is not available as prior art against the present application. A review of priority references disclosed in US Publication No. 2005/0288571 fails to disclose the docking station as recited in claims 13 and 17 for reasons described above. For at least these reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 13 and 17 is respectfully requested.

Claims 15-16 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 13, and are believed allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 13 is believed allowable. Claims 15-16 may also recite patentable subject matter in addition to that recited in claim 13. For example, none of the cited references disclose a system operable to generate a report to illustrate the electrical information acquired by the probe and position information of the probe generally simultaneously relative to the patient information acquired by at least one sensor not at the probe for comparison on a single display, as recited in claim 16. The Ben-Haim reference merely discloses displaying acquired activation times acquired by sensors at the probe relative to a map of the position of the probe in a heart. Col. 9, line 59-Col. 10, line 9. The recited patient information in claim 13 is not disclosed in the Ben-Haim reference.

Claims 18-21 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 17, and are believed allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 17 is believed allowable. Claims 18-21 may also recite patentable subject matter in addition to that recited in claim 17. For example, none of the cited references disclose a system operable to generate a report that comprises an electrical map of the heart created using the electrical information acquired generally simultaneously with the patient information for comparison relative thereto on a single display, as recited in claim 19. In another example, none of the cited references disclose a system operable to generate a report comprises a structural map of the heart created using the position information acquired generally simultaneously with the recited patient information for comparison relative thereto on a single display, as recited in claim 20.

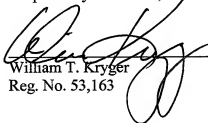
CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

No fees are believed due with this communication. Yet, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 070845. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension and authorizes payment of any such extension fees to Deposit Account No. 070845.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at telephone number (262) 548-4654 if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,



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